

Entomology Presentation



“Let’s Talk About Bugs”

District & State 4-H O-Rama – Junior & Senior 4-H'ers

This entomology activity is held so that 4-H members can become better acquainted with the insect and arthropod world in which they live. Collecting and researching one insect or non-insect arthropod can help them become more aware of the complex role these often-overlooked creatures play in our environment.

The term “bug” is most commonly used to describe an insect, or sometimes, a certain group of insects known as the “true bugs.” Some examples of “true bugs” include bed bugs, assassin bugs and stink bugs, but other insects, and other non-insect arthropods (creatures with exoskeletons and segmented bodies, but that are not insects) are often called “bugs” as well. Any of these groups, or species within these groups, can be the subject of this activity. Examples of non-insect arthropods include: spiders, centipedes, millipedes, scorpions, isopods, crawdads, daddy-long-legs, etc.

OBJECTIVES

Development of Targeted Life Skills:

Critical Thinking

- What insect or arthropod to talk about?
- How to acquire one of the chosen creatures?
- What problems do humans face because of these creatures?
- What problems do these creatures face because of humans?

Self-Motivation

- Observation, acquisition and preservation of accompanying insect or arthropod specimen
- Creation of talk structure
- Creation of accompanying illustrations (images, posters, PowerPoints, etc.)

Learning to Learn

- Researching specific topics
- Understanding connections within material covered in talk
- Learning the scientific classification of the chosen insect or arthropod

Planning/Organizing

- Creating an outline and structuring a public talk
- Being able to work within time constraints
- Inclusion of all required elements (specimen and talk)

Communication

- Effectively convey ideas or concepts to others via public speaking



ELIGIBILITY

District 4-H O-Rama: Each county may enter two junior (9-13) and two senior (14-19) members at the District 4-H O-Rama.

Arkansas 4-H O-Rama: The Top 7 senior members from the district contests will be eligible to compete at the state contest.

ACTIVITY

The Entomology Activity, “Let’s Talk About Bugs” Consists of:



- 1) An illustrated talk about a chosen “bug.” The chosen bug can be a type of “true bug,” another type of insect, or a non-insect arthropod. The illustrated talk must show how the participant has identified the creature chosen as well as an understanding of how it lives and interacts with people or the environment. **Time constraints: Junior Members, 2-5 minutes; Senior Members, 5-8 minutes.**
- 2) Participants must include with their talk an actual example specimen of the chosen “bug” pinned to specifications found in publication MP83 “Making an Insect Collection,” or the subject specimen can be displayed in a properly labeled vial of alcohol (this option is proper for most non-insect arthropods and for small soft-bodied insects).

Example insects and presentation titles:

- Black Cutworm – Management in Soybeans
- Walking Stick- Master of Camouflage
- Green Lacewing – Defenders of the Garden
- Dragonfly – Owners of the Sky
- Green Stinkbug – How I Identified It
- Monarch Butterflies- What We Can Do to Help Them?



Examples of visual aids or illustrations to accompany talk:

- PowerPoint slide shows
- Posters
- Large photographs
- Handouts or pamphlets
- Models of insects or arthropods



With over 400,000 species of beetles ALONE, the topics can be limitless!

*****NOTE:** Monarch butterflies are now an endangered species. If monarch specimens are to be included, they must have been collected prior to fall 2022. For monarchs only, a photo of a participant with a monarch can be used in place of an actual specimen for this species.

JUDGING

This activity will be judged on the standard “Score Sheet for Method Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks” – CES-663.

Failure to provide a specimen with the talk, with the exception of the monarch butterfly mentioned above, will result in an automatic deduction of 20 points from the score of this activity.

AWARDS

First-place winners at District and State receive trophies. First through fifth place receive ribbons.

RESOURCES

4-H Sources for Purchase: Teaming With Insects: Entomology Curriculum Levels 1-3 & Facilitator’s Guide

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Note: Work done in the district and state entomology activity should be reported in 4-H record books under *Entomology* activity. If no entomology project is being taken, report entomology activity work under other related projects such as agriculture, beef cattle, field crops, home management, safety, etc., where insect or arthropod management is a part of carrying out these projects.

